

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 011773
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 ARA-14 EA-12 PA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
INRE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 SP-02 SS-15 PM-05 OMB-01
L-03 HA-05 SSO-00 /133 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. NEUMANN
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
-----026360 170257Z /70

O 170042Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 011773

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USIA
NSC

UNCLAS STATE 011773

CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JANUARY 16, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JANUARY 26. FYI ONLY,
OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 011773

Q. THERE WAS A REPORT FRIDAY WHICH CAME FROM PENTAGON
SOURCES I GUESS THAT THE IRANIANS AND THE SAUDI ARABIANS
ARE SUPPLYING GERMAN-MADE ARMS TO THE SOMALIS. DO YOU HAVE
ANY REACTION TO THAT REPORT? DO YOU KNOW IT TO BE TRUE OR
FALSE?

A. I DO NOT KNOW IT TO BE TRUE OR FALSE AND I DON'T HAVE
ANY REACTION.

Q. WELL, WOULD THE UNITED STATES HAVE TAKEN ANY ACTION OR
MADE ANY STATEMENTS IN ITS CONTACTS WITH THOSE TWO GOVERN-
MENTS TO TRY TO PERSUADE THEM NOT TO SUPPLY THOSE ARMS,
THE GERMAN-MADE ARMS, TO SOMALIA?

A. WELL, I SAID, IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ON THAT FRIDAY,
THAT I WAS UNABLE TO GET ANY OF THE DETAILS OF CONVERSA-
TIONS THAT WE HAVE HAD WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN OR

SAUDI ARABIA ON THAT SUBJECT. IN FACT, I SAID I WOULD
HAVE TO DODGE THAT ANSWER. I WAS MISQUOTED IN ONE OF
THE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF THAT; AND MY ANSWER OF DOING
BECAUSE I WAS UNABLE TO GET INTO THE CONVERSATIONS WAS

ATTACHED TO A QUESTION INCORRECTLY THAT STATED, "WERE THESE GOVERNMENTS SHIPPING ARMS TO ETHIOPIA?" I DID NOT DODGE THAT QUESTION. I ANSWERED IT JUST THE WAY I'VE ANSWERED YOURS JUST NOW.

Q. HOW DID YOU ANSWER IT?

A. I ANSWERED IT THAT I DON'T KNOW AND DON'T HAVE A COMMENT.

Q. WOULD THERE BE A U.S. POSITION ON WHETHER THEY SHOULD IN FACT SHIP GERMAN ARMS TO SOMALIA?

A. I HAVE NOT GOT ONE FOR YOU HERE. NO. AS I SAY, I UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 011773

DON'T HAVE A COMMENT.

Q. ON THE SAUDI CONNECTION, I HEARD ON BBC LAST NIGHT -- I HAVEN'T SEEN IT WRITTEN DOWN ANYWHERE -- THAT THE SAUDIS HAVE NOW MADE SOME KIND OF STATEMENT, THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER, I BELIEVE, MADE IT IN TEHERAN, SAYING SOMETHING SIMILAR TO WHAT THE SHAH HAD EARLIER SAID, NAMELY THAT NEITHER OF THOSE COUNTRIES WOULD STAND IDLY BY IF SOMALIA WAS INVADED FROM ETHIOPIA. HAVE YOU SEEN SUCH A STATEMENT, AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU HAVE SEEN IT, DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ANY CONSULTATION BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE SUBJECT OF WHAT MIGHT BE DONE, OR WHAT SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT DO IF SOMALIA WERE INVADED?

A. THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST QUESTION IS, NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT. THE ANSWER TO THE SECOND IS, I DON'T KNOW FOR A FACT, BUT I WOULD NOT EXCLUDE IT; BUT I REALLY WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK TO NOT BEING ABLE TO GET INTO THE CONVERSATIONS.

Q. COULD WE GET ANY SPECIFICS ON THIS COMPROMISE LANGUAGE WHICH ENABLED VANCE TO GO OVER TO JERUSALEM?

A. NO. WE SAID AT THE TIME THAT WE WEREN'T GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF IT, AND THAT'S WHERE WE STILL ARE.

Q. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AIRLIFT TO ETHIOPIA, THE SOVIET AIRLIFT, DO YOU HAVE ANY DETAILS OF THE REPORTED AIRLIFTS TO SYRIA, IRAQ, LIBYA?

A. NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 011773

Q. YOU GAVE US SOME DETAILS HERE.

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS ON THAT. I THINK WE TOOK A QUESTION LAST WEEK ON THE SOVIET SUPPLY OF WEAPONS TO SYRIA, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, AND THE ANSWER TO THAT WAS THAT WE COULD NOT GET INTO THE SPECIFICS OF IT, THAT WE WERE AWARE -- I THINK HODDING SAID IT. BUT THE ANSWER THAT WE POSTED DID NOT GIVE YOU ANYTHING. THAT'S WHERE I STILL AM.

Q. IS THERE ANYTHING SINCE THEN?

A. NO.

Q. COULD YOU CONFIRM THAT THE SECRETARY, AS REPORTED TODAY, WOULD GO TO CAIRO AT THE END OF HIS ISRAELI VISIT?

A. I WOULD STAY WITH WHATEVER LANGUAGE IT WAS THAT HODDING USED LAST WEEK ON THAT. I DON'T WANT TO GET IN RIGHT NOW TO WHAT OTHER STOPS HE MAY BE MAKING.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT THAT PRINCE FAISAL IS IN THE UNITED STATES. DO YOU KNOW FOR WHAT PURPOSE AND ARE THERE ANY MEETINGS PLANNED IN WASHINGTON FOR HIM?

A. I HAVE NOT GOTTEN ANY INFORMATION ABOUT HIS BEING HERE, MUCH LESS THAT HE IS HAVING ANY CONTACTS ANY OFFICIAL CONTACTS WHILE HE'S HERE.

Q. COULD YOU LOOK INTO THIS?

A. SURE.

CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE011773
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBHARRIS:DP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780024-0016
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780155/aaaabtwl.tel
Line Count: 208
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dec9cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3762031
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JANUARY 16, 1978
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, XF
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dec9cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014